

Hilde Juch  
Essen

29th December 1945  
Post Restante (without residence)

To Lt. Colonel B. G. Melson,  
President of the Court of Justice  
in the Steele Jouth-Home (Jugendheim) Proceedings on 18.12.45

Sir, Re: Petition for pardon of German women for  
Heyer, Koenen, Braschoss, Käuffer and Boddenberg.

25 000 guiltless, industrious German people were burnt alive at Barmen in one night in consequence of war-crimes on the part of the Allied in the West. Searching fire of allied flyers was directed against those who got stuck in the softened asphalt-pavement of the streets, as also on those people who, while burning alive, threw themselves into the river Wupper.

Is it therefore astonishing that the tormented German people cried for vengeance? The air attacks of the Allied in the West cannot be called humane.

In the above named proceedings there was the question of retaliation for war-crimes. But in the main we German women and children have a right to accuse. We are the heavily injured, our children were murdered with bestiality. Our parents were burnt alive.

No pardon was given to us defenceless women and children in the open cities without any military character. All property was robbed from us civilians by a criminal conduct of the war.

The Allied in the West were the first who waived the regulations of a humane manner of warfare. For this reason the German Defence Forces had no occasion to keep to them.

From the moment when the Allied in the West commenced the heavy air attacks on the German civilian population (mostly women and children), there was no reason why the Germans should keep to international usages of warfare.

The war-fare of the Allied in the West was barbarous, their flyers were no longer soldiers but lent themselves as murderers, who declined pardon to old people, women and children.

Who lends his hand to such a mode of war-fare is a war-criminal. We German women and children demanded atonement for these cruelties. The Hitler-Ré-gime was a Government System, chosen by the people. Its defence forces had to act according to the wishes of the people who cried for atonement.

The three landed flyers had deserved their death a hundred times.

When Dresden had to be made a reception-camp for the fugitives from the East and was filled with people the Allied in the West organized a great attack on these people with phosphorous, incendiary bombs and bomb-carpets. Pardon was declined to the thousands of people.

We German women and children have a greater right to demand from the Allied in the West atonement for war-crimes. I repeatedly say Allied in the West because the Russians have acted much more humane.

The Allied have much to make up for respecting the German people. Numberless valuable German men have recently been condemned to death, although without guilt. This must be stopped if a lasting peace in Europe is not to be endangered.

The hatred of the Germans may grow to become dangerous.

The real political standpoint of the Germans will never be made out by the Allied in the West. They are only told what they want to hear, in order to avoid persecution. Is that what you call democracy?

I am absolutely open-hearted and tell you everything as it is, even if it is not agreeable to hear.

If the misery and the wretchedness, caused by the murderous air attacks, are to be removed, in the first instance further losses of life among the Germans must be avoided.

p.t.o.

If you inform the incriminated of the above proceedings that they are remitted their punishment in consequence of a petition for pardon by German women in the Ruhrdistrict, you will ascertain that there will hardly be more faithful collaborators for you in Germany than these men. They will be able to render valuable service in reconstructing Germany and will never be ungrateful to the Allies.

The German women of the Ruhr-district, who have for so long been tortured by the Allied in the West and have had so much to put up with, TO :  
prey that this letter be placed before the Military Commander, who is 1  
in a position to grant pardon. It would be the best for the victorious and the vanquished if the past be forgotten and forgiven.

For all women of the Ruhr-District.

signed Hilde Juch

To Fieldmarshall Bernard Montgometry  
Supreme Commander of the British Occupational Army in Germany

Bad Oeynhausen.

The enclosed petition is in consequence of the urgency of the matter dealt with forwarded direct with the respectful application for a favourable attention and decision.

Respectfully

signed Hilde Juch